

What is claimed is:

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1. A method of managing a concurrent use software license in a logically partitioned computer, the method comprising:
 - (a) tracking concurrent uses of a computer program across a plurality of logical partitions in the logically partitioned computer; and
 - (b) selectively denying a request to use the computer program in a first logical partition if permitting the requested use would violate a concurrent use software license associated with the computer program.
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein tracking concurrent uses of the computer program is performed by a partition manager accessible by the plurality of logical partitions, the method further comprising accessing the partition manager in response to the request to use the computer program in the first logical partition.
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3. The method of claim 2, wherein tracking concurrent uses of the computer program includes maintaining a global count of the number of concurrent uses of the computer program across the plurality of logical partitions.
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4. The method of claim 3, further comprising receiving the global count from the partition manager in response to the access thereto, and wherein selectively denying the request includes denying the request when the global count is at least equal to a maximum number of concurrent uses permitted by the concurrent use software license.
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5. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
 - (a) incrementing the global count whenever a request to use the computer program is granted; and
 - (b) decrementing the global count whenever a use of the computer program is terminated.

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6. The method of claim 5, wherein each logical partition includes a local license manager, and wherein accessing the partition manager in response to the request is performed by the local license manager in the first logical partition.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein each of incrementing and decrementing the global count includes passing a program identifier to the partition manager.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising determining in the local license manager for the first logical partition whether permitting the requested use would violate the concurrent use software license.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising tracking concurrent uses of a plurality of computer programs across the plurality of logical partitions.

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10. An apparatus, comprising:

(a) a logically partitioned computer including a plurality of logical partitions; and

(b) a first program resident in the computer, the first program configured to manage a concurrent use software license for a second program in the computer by tracking concurrent uses of the second program across the plurality of logical partitions, and selectively denying a request to use the second program in a first logical partition if permitting the requested use would violate the concurrent use software license.

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11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the first program includes:

(a) a partition manager accessible by the plurality of logical partitions and configured to track the concurrent uses of the second program across the plurality of logical partitions; and

(b) a license manager configured to access the partition manager in response to the request to use the computer program in the first logical partition.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the partition manager is configured to track concurrent uses of the second program by maintaining a global count of the number of concurrent uses of the second program across the plurality of logical partitions.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the license manager is further configured to receive the global count from the partition manager in response to the access thereto, and to selectively deny the request when the global count is at least equal to a maximum number of concurrent uses permitted by the concurrent use software license.

14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the license manager is further configured to increment the global count whenever a request to use the second program is granted, and to decrement the global count whenever a use of the second program is terminated.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the license manager is resident in the first logical partition, and wherein each additional logical partition includes an associated local license manager.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the global count is associated with a program identifier for the second program, and wherein the license manager is configured to pass the program identifier to the partition manager when accessing the partition manager.

17. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the partition manager is further configured to track concurrent uses of a plurality of programs across the plurality of logical partitions.

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